BBC

BE×BOY COMICS

この世 異聞

KONOYO BUN KONOYO BUN KONOYO BUN KONOYO BUN KO

鈴木ツタ

BBC

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FOR YAMANE AKIO, GENERATION UPON GENERATION OF HIS FAMILY BEFORE HIM ALL PASSED AWAY YOUNG, AND HENCE, DUE TO THIS DEADLY CURSE, THEY WERE HATED BY ALL RELATIVES. ONE DAY, IT WAS AKIO'S TURN TO FALL SICK! AND THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT THAT APPEARED AT AKIO'S CALL WAS ACTUALLY... A COMPLETELY NAKED MAN WITH DOG EARS AND A TAIL! ONE-SHOTS AND SPECIALLY DRAWN SHORT STORIES ARE ALSO INCLUDED. ♥

[redacted]

BIRTHDAY: DECEMBER 3
BLOOD TYPE: A

I live in the Ehime [redacted]
(which is just off the Honshu Island
- been living here since November '06)

I love Japanese wine.

I like going out to drink, but usually
I prefer to stay at home and drink
with others.

BE×BOY COMICS

Kanoyo Tsun

Suzuki Tsuta

BBC
BE×BOY COMICS

KONOYO IBUN
⋮
TSUTA SUZUKI
鈴木ツタ

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THE TWO OF THEM

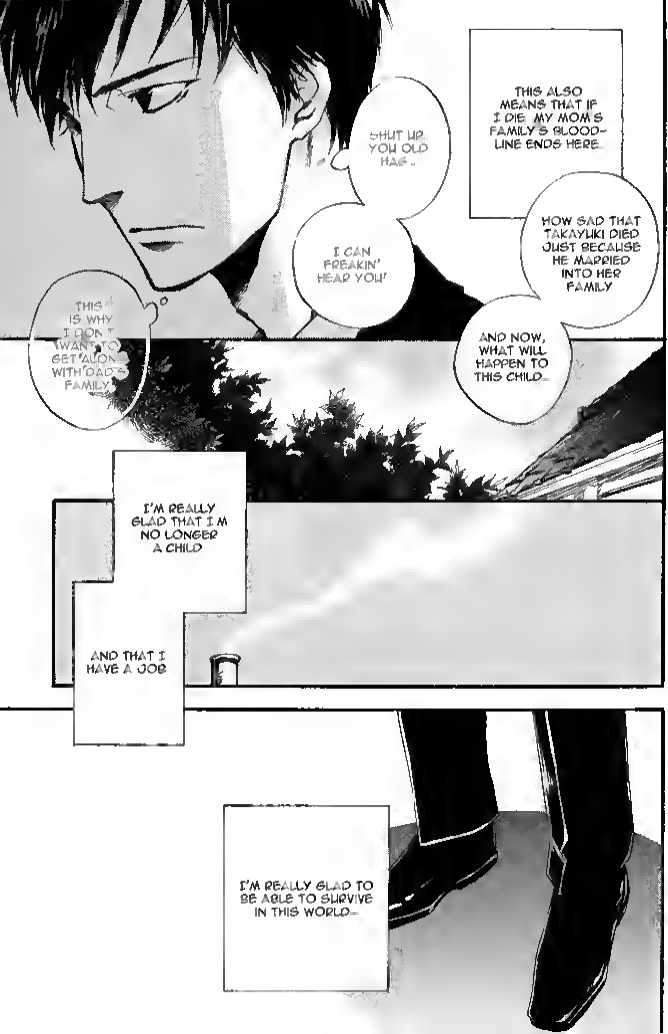
白夜叉
第一幕

Kono Yo Jun

I'M SORRY, AKI
GRANDPA!
IF GRANDPA'S GONE
I'LL REALLY BE ALL ALONE!
GRAND..
IT'S ALL RIGHT
SOMEONE'S CONSTANTLY WATCHING OVER US
I HAD MENTIONED IT BEFORE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG
RIGHT OVER THERE

I'LL BE MEETING GRANDMA AND YOUR PARENTS SOON, SO I'M NOT SAD TO BE LEAVING THIS WORLD
STILL, I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU..

GRANDPA PASSED AWAY THIS APRIL.
SORRY.
MY PARENTS HAD ALREADY PASSED AWAY EARLIER ON, LEAVING ME TO LIVE ALONE WITH GRANDPA
..DID YOU KNOW?
IT REALLY HAPPENED
DAD HAD MARRIED INTO MOM'S HOUSEHOLD, AND ALL HER RELATIVES WERE DEAD DUE TO WAR OR EPIDEMICS
MEMBERS OF THAT FAMILY MUST HAVE ALL DIED OF THE SAME DISEASE
THEY MUST BE CURSED


THIS ALSO MEANS THAT IF I DIE, MY MOM'S FAMILY'S BLOOD-LINE ENDS HERE...
SHUT UP, YOU OLD HAG...
I CAN FREAKIN' HEAR YOU!
HOW SAD THAT TAKAYUKI DIED JUST BECAUSE HE MARRIED INTO HER FAMILY
AND NOW, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS CHILD...
THIS IS WHY I DON'T WANT TO GET ALONG WITH DAD'S FAMILY.
I'M REALLY GLAD THAT I'M NO LONGER A CHILD
AND THAT I HAVE A JOB
I'M REALLY GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD...

HOWEVER, NOT LONG AFTER SOMETHING STARTED TO GO WRONG WITH MY BODY
I KNEW THAT IT WASN'T RIGHT TO DO SO, BUT I IGNORED THE SYMPTOMS
KYAA!
PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS FORCING MYSELF IN FRONT OF DAD'S RELATIVES
FINALLY I FAINTED AT MY WORKPLACE. IT WAS THE LAST STRAW
HMPH
IT WAS THEN THAT I REALIZED THAT THERE ARE ACTUALLY DISEASES THAT DOCTORS CAN'T CURE.
WHAT CURSE?! MY DISEASE ISN'T EVEN THE SAME AS GRANDPA'S

BUT IN THE END THEY'RE PROBABLY STILL GOING TO BLAME IT ON THE CURSE
AND IT'S NOT EVEN MOM'S OR GRANDPA'S FAULT
ALL OF A SUDDEN,
LONELINESS STARTED TO SEEP IN
WHEREVER I GO, NO ONE'S BY MY SIDE
RIGHT OVER THERE
SEEMS LIKE WALKING'S NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM
I SHOULD GO HOME
swish

FACE AS PALE AS DEATH...
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE REFER TO
RRRR
Cough-cough!
Gasp!
SWIP
OUCH— MY THROAT STILL HURTS
Cough!
Cough!
Cough! Cough!
drip
NGH!

DAMN DON'T TELL ME IT'S THE HOSPITAL!
OR MY RELATIVES? OR COLLEAGUES..
RRRRR
Cough!
Cough!
RRRR
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
MOM DAD, GRANDPA
WHO CAN
Cough!
..NO WAY IT'S THIS?
...
THUMP
RIGHT OVER THERE...
RRRR

...WHAT'S THIS ?
drop
TOSS
THIS KIND OF THING
AN ANCIENT TOOTH OF AN ANIMAL?

GRAN-
GRAN-
GRAN GRANDPA YOU MORON...!
HOW PAINFUL AND LONELY
HOW PAINFUL, UUGH!
disappear=;
Cough!
NOOOO!
WHAT CAN-
A THING LIKE THIS DO?!
UGH!

CRACKLE
IN THE END I M STILL ALL ALONE!
MORON!
UGH!
...
EH?
THUNK
Waa
CREAK
Uwaa!
CRACKLE
CREAK
CREAK!
CREAK

CRACK
IS THIS...
—A HUMAN?
CRICK

Looks up
Ah—
That hurts!
rustle
—
...Yo, you the current head of the family?

cat ear cosplay?!
Completely naked...?
THE HECK? HE'S PRETTY YOUNG FOR ONE HUH!
THAT MEANS— EVERYONE ELSE HAS ALREADY DIED?
THUNK
OUCH!
No, a dog...?
WHATEVER~
TO FOLLOW THE RULES, FIRST GIVE ME YOUR NAME
AND THE REST CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF AFTER THAT
swing

OH MY...
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
WHA NAM..!
Cough!
GRAB
?!
CAN'T BE HELPED
WAIT, THAT ISN'T THE POINT. WHAT THE HELL IS THIS GUY DOING—?!
WHAT KIND OF WEIRD POWER IS THIS?!
OWW!
AH!
KIP

TEAR
I'M GOING TO BE KILLED!
!
BITE
I'M—
RIP
TEAR
wiggle
...
flip
Rargh, tastes awful!
Tch!
YOU! NOW YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TALK. QUICK GIVE ME A NAME.
uh..
slurp

S– scary! How can something so unreal happen?! How cruel, Grandpa! Dream? It's gotta be a dream?!
Is there a need to be frightened by your twin's standin'?
VWAA!
It's real!
How dare you say things like that! Now you can talk, right?! You should thank me properly!
UWAAA—H!
?!
BUT AS MY ORIGINAL NAME WAS ABOLISHED BY YOUR ANCESTOR
YOU'LL HAVE TO RENAME ME EVERY TIME YOU SUMMON ME FOR THE AGREEMENT TO WORK
I KNEW YOUR ANCESTOR WHO GOT CURSED AND BECAUSE IT SEEMED LIKE FUN I SWORE TO LOOK AFTER ALL OF YOU
LISTEN, THIS CURSE WILL DOG YOUR FAMILY TILL THE VERY END!
AHH IT REALLY DOESN T HURT ANYMORE..

IN THE PAST THEY'D HAVE SUMMONED ME IN A FOMAL AND POLITE MANNER..
IF YOU DON'T DO SO, THE AGREEMENT WON'T WORK!
IS IS THIS A HOBBY OF YOURS ..?
Humph!
glance

!
YOU'VE MET GRANDPA?
THERE AREN'T ANY OFFERINGS OR WINE..
SHOUZOU ALSO SUMMONED ME IN A SIMILAPLY DOUBTFUL MANNER

Yay!
Grandpa showed surprising perception
...because his wife wasn't around anymore, he summoned me out of loneliness.
And gave me his wife's name.
"Setsuko". it was...

SO YOU'RE SHOUZOU'S GRANDSON
tch
SHOUZOU HE-

Frankly, I felt like murdering him.
HE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN ME A BETTER NAME
AND HE EVEN ASKED ME TO PLAY CHESS WITH HIM
Setsuk.
...
...
Setsuk.
Setsuk.
SO, "SETSU" THEN
This guy..
SO..
Setsuk.
WHAT CAN "SETSU" DO FOR ME?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN CURE MY DISEASE, RIGHT?
ANYTHING
..AS LONG AS IT'S WITHIN MY POWER, I'LL FULFILL EVERY-THING YOU WANT
THAT'S WHY..

THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS SATISFY ME
I'M NOT A TOOL FOR YOU TO MAKE USE OF!
blush
ANGRY
Say something already..!
WAA!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY ?
TELL ME WHAT YOUR WISH IS!

HE'S PRETTY AND HE SMELLS NICE
THADUMP
I—
I DON'T WANT TO SUFFER FROM DISEASES ANYMORE
CURE MY ILLNESS
SO I'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO WORK
GRAB
AND LIVE ON BY MYSELF THIS IS MY WISH

All right.
I DON'T WANT YOUR FAMILY'S BLOODLINE TO END ANYWAY.
THESE ILLNESSES
THUMP
?!
I'LL RID YOUR BODY OF THEM
HOLD
—!

NHH!
?!
SUCK
NGH!
SUCK
clamp
NH!
THE THING THAT WAS ORIGINALLY LODGED IN MY THROAT..
WAS SUCKED OUT
NGH
HAA
AH
HUH
YOU'RE MAKING STRANGE SOUNDS
CRUNCH
SO, YOU WANT TO DO IT?
RIP
TEAR

AH
..BE-
BECAUSE
SETSU'S
BODY..
SMELLS
STRANGE
IT'S PITCH
BLACK INSIDE
YOUR BODY
WANT ME TO
EAT ALL OF
THEM UP?
Yuck—
...SHUT UP
DON'T
MIND THAT
..ON THE
OTHER
HAND

WHO ON EARTH WOULD LIKE TO EAT SUCH AWFUL STUFF?
SLIDE IN
!
YOU CAN HEAL ME, CAN'T YOU?
THEN JUST GET TO IT!
PISSED OFF
YOU KNOW
PULL
YOU AREN'T GRATEFUL ENOUGH!
NOT THINKING ABOUT ME AT ALL

FROM MY BODY
...
I CAN'T FINISH THEM ALL IN ONE GO
SO I'LL JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE CHEST AREA FOR NOW
UGH
NGH!

?!
IF YOU WERE TO CALL THIS FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE THEN—
PULL
GRAB
FILTHY BLACK THINGS WERE SUCKED OUT
DOES IT HURT?
NO WAY

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID
DON'T GET DISTRACTED
CARESS
YOU WANT THIS TOO, DON'T YOU?
Squelch
Ah!
..WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
TWITCH
I REALLY.. DON'T WANT THIS
ST-!
STOP!
slurp
...

..CHANGED YOUR MIND?
smirk
AND I THOUGHT I'D DO IT IN PASSING IF YOU WANTED TO
?
BUT TOO BAD. I'M TERRIBLE AT REPRESSING MY DESIRES.
SLIDE
JOLT
?!
Ahh...
DOING IT WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME SHOULD FEEL VERY GOOD

Let's have some fun.
thrust
thrust
Ngh!
Ah!
Ahh
Aah
Ah
thrust
thrust

hah
Ah...
I—
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU..!
SUCH A SHARP TONGUE
DESPITE YOUR WORDS, THE PLACE WE'RE JOINED AT IS SURELY FEELING GOOD
THIS HAS ALSO COME A NUMBER OF TIMES.
Stroke
JOLT
AH!
Unn..!

Ah
—ungh!
Ah—
Ahh
HNN
THIS TASTES MUCH BETTER
FEELS GOOD, RIGHT?
evil laughter
BA—
BASTARD HOW CAN YOU SAY ?!
AREN'T YOU IN ECSTASY RIGHT NOW?

No!
ngh
thrust
thrust
Ah
Ahh,
IT'S ALREADY
twitch
thrust
Ahh!

THAT HURT!
Who on earth kicks his savior's face——?!
A dog and I...?!
I WOKE UP TO SEE YOU LYING THERE AS A DOG!
ALL I DID WAS RELAX WHILE I WAS SLEEPING!
Zzzz
STOP WHINING! SHUT UP!
STILL SLEEPING SO LEISURELY AFTER DOING THAT TO A PERSON!
BUT YOU ENJOYED IT
NO I DIDN'T!
AND I'M NOT A DOG! I'M A WOLF!
WHATEVER IT IS. I DON'T CARE!
GO HOME! RIGHT NOW!

!
YOUR ILLNESS ISN'T CURED YET! I'VE ONLY HEALED YOUR CHEST
OH IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT TO SAY THAT?
...!
BEFORE YOU'RE COMPLETELY HEALED I'LL GIVE YOU LOTS OF LOVE
ENOUGH! IT DOESN'T MATTER! GO HOME!
thud
Wai .. Eh?
YOU DON'T KNOW THE METHOD THAT'LL MAKE ME RETURN RIGHT?
EH?
END

SETSU—! YOU BASTARD—!
KICK
UWA!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?! I HAVE TO WORK TODAY!
YOU BROKE MY CELL, DIDN'T YOU?!
...Ah?
TOKUMA SHOTEN PRESENTS
この世界は
鈴木ツタ

この世異聞
Konoyo Ibun
鈴木ソタ
ISOTA SUZUKI
PRESENTS
KONOYO IBUN

twitch
SHUT UP ALREADY..
sits up
THE ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING!
SHOUTING THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.. YOU'RE SO NOISY
I SIMPLY PICKED UP YOUR CELL AND IT BROKE
FURY
..!

PUT ON SOME CLOTHES, YOU FLASHER!
EH—?
It's so troublesome!
ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO
I CONTRACTED AN INCURABLE DISEASE
IN MY FAMILY FOR WHATEVER REASON EVERYONE DIES EARLY
SO ALL MY OTHER RELATIVES THOUGHT THAT WE WERE CURSED
AFTER MY PARENTS AND GRANDPA PASSED AWAY I WAS LEFT ALONE

IT'S ALL RIGHT
THERE'S SOMEONE CONSTANTLY WATCHING OVER US
RIGHT OVER THERE
AS I WAS OVERWHELMED BY GRIEF AND LONELINESS
MY GRANDPA'S LAST WORDS APPEARED IN MY MIND
...
HOWEVER—
WHAT I HAD FOUND WAS A FOSSIL-LIKE TOOTH
BUT INSTEAD OF FEELING COMFORTED I FELT STUPID

WHAT GRANDPA SAID WAS TRUE
AND APPEARING BEFORE ME WAS..
SCRATCH SCRATCH
WHAT'S "WORK"?
THIS IDIOT.

IT MEANS GOING TO MY COMPANY! HAVING SOMETHING TO DO!
SO THAT I CAN LIVE COMFORTABLY!
AND DON'T YOU DARE GO OUT LOITERING NEARBY
YEAH— YEAH—

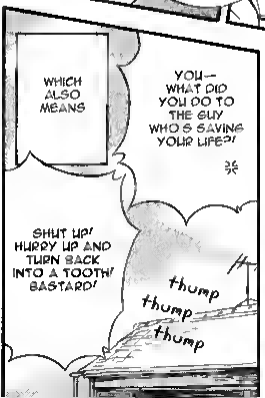
AH! YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF LUNCH YOURSELF!
OKAY—
I HAVE TO BUY DINNER AND A NEW CELL PHONE TONIGHT, SO I'LL BE HOME LATE
OKAY—
Not getting any sleep?
..AARGH— WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M SPEAKING TO SOMEONE WHO'S LIVING OFF ME?
I'M HEADING OUT..
AH HEY!

GRAB
!
ALMOST FORGOT
LET ME EAT SOME OF YOUR SICKNESS IN PLACE OF BREAKFAST.

FRANKLY
I'M NOT COMPLETELY HEALED YET
twitch
HOLD O..!
—!
Nh.
BUT THIS DOG-EARED COSPLAYING BASTARD'S HELPING ME WITH THIS
PULL
Oww!

slurp
FOR SETSU
YOU KNOW, ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU START GETTING USED TO THIS?
ouch.
wiggle
wiggle
CRIPES, YOU ALWAYS TREAT OTHERS GOODWILL LIKE THIS?
SHUT UP WEIRDO!
DAMN IT...
THIS IS HIS METHOD OF HEALING ME.
WEIRDO? YOU MEAN...
crunch
crunch
AN ECCENTRIC AND PEDANTIC PERSON?
HIS WAY OF GETTING RID OF ALL THE SICKNESS IN MY BODY...

flick
GRAB
YOU DON'T LOOK ECCENTRIC.
MORE LIKE A COUNTRY BUMPKIN.. BORING..


WHICH ALSO MEANS
YOU— WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE GUY WHO'S SAVING YOUR LIFE?!
SHUT UP! HURRY UP AND TURN BACK INTO A TOOTH! BASTARD!
thump
thump
thump

Uwa!
YOU ASS!
KICK

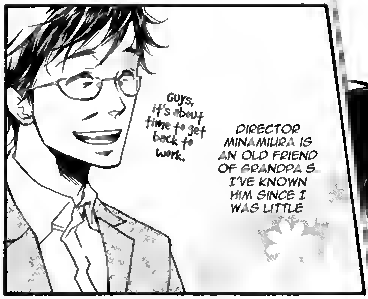
THAT SETSU'S NOT A HUMAN BUT A DEMON
THAT GUY..
HE'S STILL SUCH A BRAT! REALLY...
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
RATTLE
SWISH
click
click
ALL HE'S DOING IS GETTING RID OF MY BODY'S SICKNESS...
MM, MM
AH,
THERE'S TV! I'LL WATCH TV THEN
SHOULD I GO BACK TO SLEEP..?
STARK NAKED
BUT HIS METHOD..
AS HIS METHOD IS TOO SENSUAL I'M NOT QUITE USED TO IT

THOUGH IT'S MUCH BETTER COMPARED TO DEATH
BUT NOTHING OTHER THAN DEATH COULD BE MORE DREADFUL THAN BEING FORCED TO MAKE LOVE
yamane-kun!
so glad you're up and about again! welcome back to work!

THIS IS A GIFT FROM THE THREE OF US. WE DIDN'T MAKE USE OF ANY RESIDENTS TAXES, JUST SO YOU KNOW.
—EH...?
surprise
DIRECTOR, THE RED PACKET IS UPSIDE DOWN. THIS IS THE BACK.
EH?
REALLY?
AH
UM
IT'S A VOUCHER FOR THE BENTO STALL ON UMETAKE STREET.
ISN'T IT GREAT? AND TO THINK YOU USED TO BE SO SICK.
AKI,
IT'S REALLY GREAT.

WAAAAH!
THUMP
TETSU-CHAAAN!
OH MY..
tearry
TE-
TETSU-CHAN
I CAN LEND YOU MY CHEST FOR COMFORT AS WELL!
NO UM I DON'T THINK IT'S ADVISABLE TO SIMPLY BORROW THE CHEST OF A NEWLY-WED WIFE
I REFUSE TO BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY!
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YAMANE-KUN TOO!
AKI...
No, uh... No way! With a married woman it's a bit too...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE FOR YOU.
pet pet
YOU POOR THING
IF ANYTHING'S BOTHERING YOU, JUST LET ME KNOW.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.
What a beautiful friendship!
Here it is. Whispering sweet words and honeyed phrases so comfortably
THANK YOU, TETSU-CHAN.
I WORK IN A SMALL ART GALLERY
RIGHT AFTER I GRADUATED AND QUALIFIED AS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL—I WAS SENT HERE
THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT UNIT

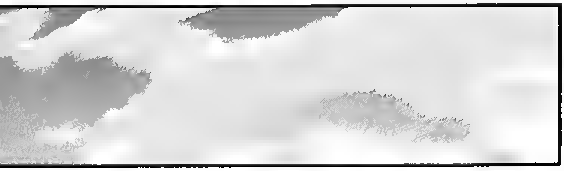

Guys, it's about time to get back to work.
DIRECTOR MINAMIURA IS AN OLD FRIEND OF GRANDPA'S. I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE I WAS LITTLE

Sorry.
Good boy. Here, blow your nose.
TETSU-CHAN FROM THE KATOKI FAMILY IS MY CHILDHOOD PLAYMATE.
HE WAS SENT HERE BECAUSE OF HIS FAMILY'S ANTIQUE BUSINESS.

ADMIN OFFICER SASAKI IS A NEW BRIDE WHO'S BEEN WED FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS.
Do you find a B-cup insufficient?

I WAS TERRIFIED THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK AND MY HEART WAS ILL AT EASE
SUCH A PEACEFUL FEELING
Today's pic is post-control or else we'll be drowned when the rainy season arrives.

FINALLY, I HAVE A SENSE OF REALITY. MY HEART IS FILLED WITH INDESCRIBABLE GLEE.



FORGET ABOUT WORK AND PEST-CONTROL FOR TODAY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT? PICK WHATEVER YOU LIKE
REALLY?! THEN I WANT ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT S—
AH

...sweet vinegar ribs?
YOU IGNORED MY SUSHI!
NO! THAT'S NOT IT. IT'S JUST THAT TODAY...
I SEE. WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?
TO-- TOMORROW'S ALSO...
?
THEN WHEN WILL IT BE CONVE-- NIENT FOR YOU?

SO I'LL HAVE TO RUSH STRAIGHT HOME AFTER WORK...
NO MATTER WHAT
?
WHAT KIND OF GUEST IS IT?
THIS. UM-
THERE'S A GUEST STAYING WITH ME FOR THE TIME BEING.
IF HE'S BOTHERING YOU, YOU CAN TELL ME
NO NO NEED.
I'M ALL RIGHT
I... I CAN'T TELL.

YAMANE-KUN!
I JUST CAN'T BEAR TO TELL HIM THERE'S A MAN WITH DOG EARS & TAIL AND WHO'S ALWAYS SLEEPING WITHOUT ANY CLOTHES ON IN MY HOUSE
YAMANE-KUN!
SASAKI-SAN
?

HE'S JAPANESE, BUT HE LOOKS CAUCASIAN!
His entire body's completely clean!
PICK ME UP?
SOMEONE'S HERE TO PICK YOU UP!
?
I DON'T THINK I NOW ANYBODY LIKE THAT...
AH!
HE'S VERY GOOD-LOOKING, BUT HE'S A BIT WEIRD!

IT CAN'T BE—
thud
thud
thud
WHAM
AH,
THERE YOU ARE, YAMANE-KUN.
Yo.

SETSU...
SPANK
You're late, moron.
COULDN'T YOU BE SLOWER?
A LITTLE LONGER AND I'D HAVE MADE FRIENDS WITH THIS CUTIE.
MU?

shift
?
?
AKI,
IS THIS YOUR GUEST?
EH?!
YOU YOU...
IN SUCH AN OUTFIT... WHY ARE YOU HERE..?
Y— YES
AH?
WHAT'S WRONG NII-CHAN?

Oh?!
That'd be cool!
slips
WE JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ALONG
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING A SMALL PARTY AT AKI'S HOUSE TONIGHT?

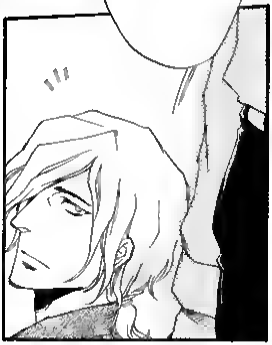
WHAT ON EARTH..
I want to go too!
Don't think so! A newly-wed woman going to an all-men party..
And another one joins us.
aww! A newly-wed woman! How nice!
WILL THIS TURN INTO?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
TETSU-CHAN—!
WAI.. WHAT DID I JUST HEAR?!
SLAM

SO YOU PURPOSELY PUT ASH INTO IT..
REALITY
HMM
FANTASY
TASTES NICE
BOTH EXTREMES..
HAVE GATHERED HERE.
Hmm I drunk even a drop of alcohol.
The reason why sake is transparent is because ash is put into the wine-jars
whatever the case, they all taste nice.
I can't care about stuff like that! Drink up! drink up!

You know how to make roasted meat too, don't you?
That's his specialty!
He adds yuzu-pepper to everything he cooks!
UNDERSTOOD I'LL GO MAKE SOME MORE
I'M HUNGRY..
AH, THERE'S NO MORE FOOD TO GO WITH THE SAKE!
WHAT THE HECK?
That's good enough. He can get married right now
Yeah...
HE MANAGED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM SO EASILY—

HE CAN LEAVE ANYTIME FOR ALL I CARE
DOING SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO ME EVERY NIGHT.
..I'LL GO HELP

HE'S SUCH A CARING CHILD.
OH REALLY—?
He doesn't look very pleased with something
HEY HEY SETSU-SAN



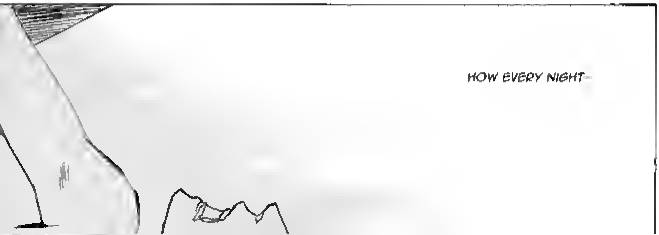
COULD SETSU HAVE BEEN..
THE SETSUKO WITH DOG EARS AND A TAIL?
OH..
YOU FINALLY REMEMBER? KEIICHIROU!

HM?
—TETSU-CHAN IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?

THIS IS YOUR PARTY!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LOOK VERY HAPPY
..I SEE
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR
It's only roasted meat

GRANDMA'S APRON LOOKS WEIRD ON YOU..
Why are you wearing that anyway?
NO THANKS I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING...
WANT TO TRY SOME? EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE
SIZZLE

TETSU-CHAN IS STILL AS GENTLE AS BEFORE
..CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING WEIRD?
WHAT DO YOU THINK.. OF SETSU?
?
NOTHING SPECIAL..
HE'S PRETTY INTERESTING AND HE SEEMS NICE
WILL I FEEL BETTER IF I TELL TETSU-CHAN?


HOW EVERY NIGHT..

EVERY NIGHT SETSU FORCES ME TO DO 'THAT'.
ruffle
I JUST CAN'T.
..CHEER UP
OKAY?
TELL HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
UUU..
TETSU-CHAN'S THE BEST AFTER ALL..
AND YOU'RE SO GENTLE..
I HATE THIS.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
YOU SHOULDN'T THINK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT..
REALLY? IT'S TRUE!
SETSU-SAN WAS MY FIRST LOVE!
crash
TETSU-CHAN?
?!

JUST.. JUST NOW...
THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN OLD MAN TRYING TO WOO A WOMAN AT A CLASS REUNION.
IS THAT SO? YOUR REACTION WAS REALLY INTENSE..
The meat's wasted
throb
WHAT?

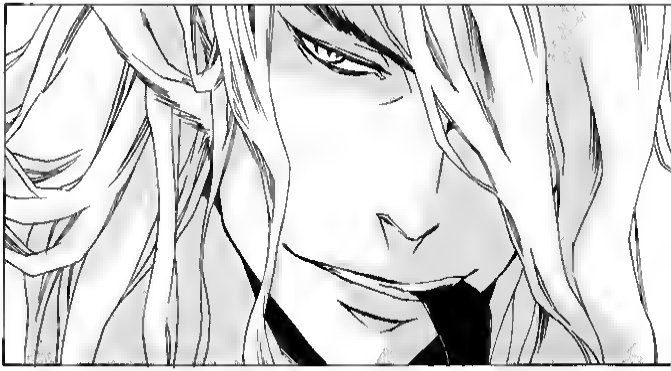
AKI?!
MY BODY FELT AS HEAVY AS LEAD
...AAH.
HELP! AKI, HE—!!
TETSU-CHAN, YOU CAN'T CALL THEM IN...
haa

BECAUSE THAT GUY'S THERE...
..AAH—AH
IF ONLY BOTH THE DISEASE AND SETSU COULD DISAPPEAR SIMULTANEOUSLY.
AKI...!

鈴木ツタ
TSUTA SUZUKI PRESENTS
This man is being "guarded" by a demon...
Like a baroque ♥ meeting modern fairy tale!
この世異聞
Konoyo Ibun

この世の果て
Kono Yo Hate

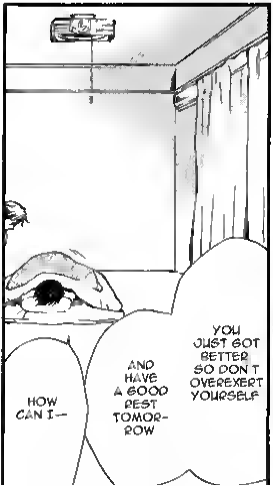
WHEN I ASKED HIM WHY
HE WAS DOING THIS



HIS REPLY WAS
"BECAUSE I'M BORED"

YOUR BODY HAS A REALLY SWEET SCENT
I HAVE COME TO ACCEPT YOU WITHOUT ANY RESISTANCE
ALL OF THAT.

I HATE IT
—AH
AKI-KUN..! WONDERFUL.


HOW CAN I—
AND HAVE A GOOD REST TOMOR-ROW
YOU JUST GOT BETTER SO DON'T OVEREXERT YOURSELF

AH—! NO, DON'T! DON'T FORCE YOURSELF
DIRECTOR
JUST LIE DOWN LIKE THIS

MY BODY FEELS SO LIGHT...
DID SETSU...?
DIRECTOR
HM?

I... WHAT DID SETSU DO TO ME?
HMM... UM
I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS BUT...

That was a great show!
TRANSFORMATIONS THAT AREN'T CAUSED BY CG ARE REALLY OVERWHELMING
I'm sorry to say
IT'S A BIT LIKE A SCENE FROM A LOVE STORY!
HO— HOLD ON
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER
THERE'S ALSO SOME QUESTIONING GOING ON OVER THERE
..SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT..
THAT WEIRD BLACK STUFF I JUST SAW WAS THE EFFECT OF ALCOHOL KICKING IN?
AS ARE THE DOG EARS AND TAIL THAT I SEE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?
THAT'S EXACTLY IT
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH, NII-CHAN

DON'T TREAT ME LIKE I'M AN IDIOT!
I WON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME LISTENING TO YOUR NONSENSE!
blow
. . .
nonsense? whaaat?
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE REASON IS.
IT SEEMS THAT SOMETHING'S REALLY TROUBLING AKI
IT PROBABLY HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU
BUT AKI DOESN'T WANT TO TELL US
SETSU-SAN, WHO ON EARTH..
ARE YOU?
AKI!

OH NO! AKI, HE!
QUICK, GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL!
--CHAN
tug
TETSU-CHA
IT'S OKAY.
?!
RUSH
BECAUSE SETSU'S HERE
Out of my way!

AKI! YOU ALL RIGHT?!
.. SETSU ..
SETSU
SETSU
SETSU
I'M HERE. EVERYTHING S FINE
EVERY-THING S FINE

I'LL DO IT JUST LIKE BEFORE EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN
No!
GRAB
I DON'T WANT !

Che
WHAT A BOTHER..
THERE'S NO CHOICE FACE ME..
heave
Cough?!
!
...ngh?!

slip
AKI!
CRIPES!
Can't be helped.
SHIFT

...HUH?!
SHOCK
AH! HE REALLY IS SETSUKO-SAN!
?!
DON'T WORRY HATOKI-KUN!
HE'S A GOOD GUY SO LET HIM CONTINUE WHAT HE'S DOING!
...
-GOOD GUY?
slide
IS THE PROBLEM HERE?
IT'S NOT IN HIS CHEST
IT'S PROBABLY A BIG ONE HIDING SOMEWHERE

DAMN!
IT'D BE MORE PLEASANT IF I COULD DO IT AT THE SAME TIME
slide
HIS BREATHING IS GETTING SHALLOW
THIS IS BAD!
AIR
ARE HIS AIRWAYS BLOCKED?
HIS NECK IS UNUSUALLY COLD
slip

slide
HERE?
coughs up
..SORRY
IF ONLY I HAD TAKEN CARE OF IT MORE THOROUGHLY THIS MORNING

HEY! IT'S OVER NOW
wiggle
wiggle
slu
rp
STOP STARING AT US SO BLANKLY GO MAKE HIS BED!
stupefied...
AH OF COURSE SORRY
HATOKI-KUN GO WET SOME TOWELS
AH
ALL ALL RIGHT
Tastes awful
munch
munch

—COME ON NOW
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FACE
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND DIRECTOR
I...
I HATE SETSU!
...
WHY?
YOU'RE ASKING ME WHY?
...BEFORE I'M COMPLETELY HEALED I'M FORCED TO DO THAT WITH HIM...!

IF YOU DON'T LIKE HIM
JUST REFUSE AND IT'LL BE FINE!
I'VE TRIED!
BUT...
THAT GUY HAS THIS WEIRD SCENT ON HIM!
...
If it feels good, you might as well enjoy it.
BLUNT
?!
DIRE-CTOR?!
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
EVERYONE FEELS EMBARRASSED AFTERWARDS. I THINK
BECAUSE EVERYONE HAS THE SAME STUPID LOOK ON THEIR FACES WHEN THEY'RE GOING AT IT

FOR SOMEONE MY AGE I REALLY ENVY YOU!
TO HAVE A GENTLE AND SKILLED PARTNER IT MUST BE A GREAT PLEASURE
DI DIRECTOR?!
UHM LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!
eh? pardon me.
HE'S ACTUALLY THAT OPEN-MINDED

SETSU'S NOT LIKE THAT TOWARDS ME AT ALL!
BASICALLY, SETSU HE—
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SO BORED.
THAT'S WHY..

ANYWAY I JUST HATE HIM! THAT'S IT!
—
IS THAT SO?
I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY BUT..
—DIRECTOR, YOU'RE REALLY ON HIS SIDE AREN'T YOU
EH?!
YEP!
BECAUSE HE'S MY SAVIOR-SLASH-FIRST LOVE!

WELL SINCE WE'RE ON TOPIC, I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU THE STORY!
SO YOU'RE SAYING..
YOU USED TO BE HUMAN TOO.
AND FOR A LONG TIME YOU'VE BEEN GIVING AKI'S FAMILY A HELPING HAND WHENEVER THEY NEEDED IT?
WAG
AND THIS TIME YOU'RE HEALING AKI?
YUP... EXACTLY
Bingo.

THAT BLACK STUFF THAT CAME OUT OF AKI'S MOUTH JUST NOW WAS THE SOURCE OF HIS SICKNESS?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S ANY BETTER AFTER YOU ATE THAT.
WHAT I'M EATING ARE DEMONS
HE'S STILL UNABLE TO STAND
shoes down
IS HIS BODY OKAY?
Hh—?
HMM YEAH. HIS BODY'S FINE.
"WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SETSU?"
...
JUST LET HIM REST AND HE'LL BE OKAY.

sigh
AKI,
I THINK THAT THIS MAN...
IS HARMFUL NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT HIM. BUT

YOU WANT TO PROTECT AKI?
...
WHAT THAT GUY WANTS ISN'T PROTECTION
HE ONLY WANTS A LIFE AS ORDINARY AS ANYBODY ELSE'S

IF THERE'S NO WISH, THEN IT WON'T BE FULFILLED
IF IT'S FULFILLED THEN I WILL LEAVE
WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO A SERIOUS TOPIC
Yeah.
AH, RIGHT
YOU SEEM TO KNOW DIRECTOR...?
I DO
..LOOKS LIKE..

A BLIND KID..
MET HIM ONCE WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
I'M QUITE GOOD AT HEALING EYES YOU WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
I'M IN A GOOD MOOD SINCE I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT FOR A LONG TIME. I'LL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL TREAT.
CAN YOU SEE NOW?

YOUR GRANDPA HAPPENED TO BE GOING FOR A WALK THAT DAY.
I WAS SO VERY LUCKY!
THE FIRST PERSON I SAW WHEN I OPENED MY EYES WAS SETSU-SAN SO THE MEMORY OF IT IS STILL PRETTY VIVID
EVER SINCE THEN I USED TO GO TO YOUR PLACE REGULARLY TO PLAY
...
AND SO YOUR FIRST LOVE TURNED OUT TO BE A MAN?
YEAH— BUT IT COULDN'T BE HELPED! SETSUKO-SAN'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL! AND YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL WHETHER HE'S A MAN OR A WOMAN

That's why Setsuko-san is my savior-stash-first love.
THUNK

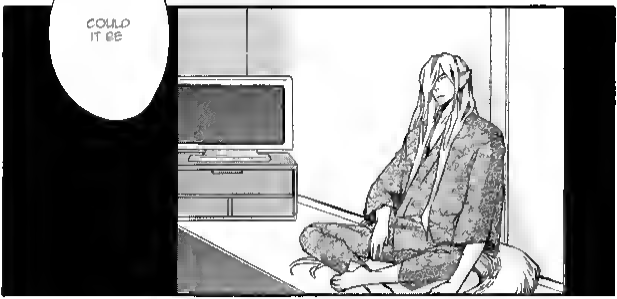
HA—HATOKI-KUN WHAT AN IMPRE-SSIVE NOISE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...I'M FINE
DIRECTOR IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SAID GOODBYE
IT'S ALREADY VERY LATE BOTH OF YOU SHOULD REST NOW
HMM YOU'RE RIGHT

UM..
I'M SORRY TO THINK YOU GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CELEBRATING MY GETTING WELL AGAIN...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S NOTHING!
I'M VERY CONTENT WITH HOW IT ALL TURNED OUT!
AKI YOU SHOULD JUST CONCENTRATE ON GETTING BETTER. ONLY THAT
COME TO WORK TOMORROW IF YOU THINK YOU'RE UP TO IT!
OKAY
PSH
IF YOU DON'T YOUR WORKLOAD WILL BE DOUBLED WHEN YOU COME BACK THE NEXT DAY!

AH— I'LL AT LEAST SEE YOU OFF AT THE DOOR..
IT'S FINE
WE'LL ASK SETSU-SAN TO CLOSE THE DOOR AFTER US.
NAH.
I'M BORROWING THE DUPLICATE KEY IN THE KITCHEN!
EH? WHAT FOR?
GOODNIGHT SEE YOU TOMORROW.
YEAH. GOODNIGHT
EH?
GOODNIGHT, AKI-KUN.
SHUT rattle
...
Heyy— what/ what about Setsu-san?
He's in that room!
What on earth do you want to do?
I want it to be sincere with him!

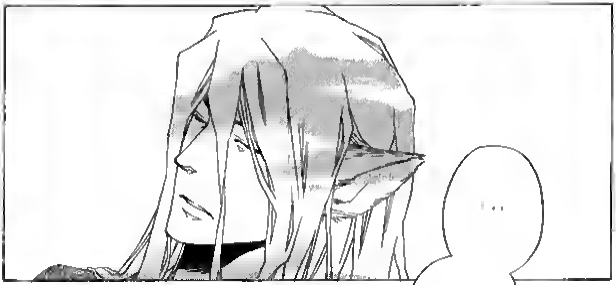
tap
snore
rattle

HIS FACE LOOKS AWFUL.


COULD IT BE

THAT IT'S MY FAULT?
tap
tap
tap
slide tap

IT'S OKAY LIKE THIS
I HATE THAT GUY ANYWAY..


...
BUT

rattle
BECAUSE I HATE HIM WHAT I DO SHOULDN'T MATTER- RIGHT?

...
fwump
snort

SHIT
GOODNIGHT, SETSU

この世異聞
Konoyo Ibun
DEMON VS SALARYMAN
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO LOVE, THEY'RE LIVING TOGETHER
THE SPECTACULAR STORY OF THESE TWO WHO IS INTRODUCED BY HBB
鈴木ソタ
ISOTA SUZUKI PRESENTS KONOYO IBUN

Kono Yo Ijun

UN
AAH
WHY DO I FEEL SO AWFUL...?
blink
—NNH?
shift

AH!
WH— WHAT'S THIS?
ROLLED INTO A BALL?
I MUST SURFACE.
...
IT'S SO STUFFY AND UNCOMFORTABLE...
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO SO EARLY IN THE DAY?!

AH SUIT HIS BODY
FEELS KIND OF NICE
EVEN THOUGH IT'S QUITE STUFFY.
WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING ANYTHING TO BED AGAIN?!
SMACK
Oww?!
WHAT.. WHAT THE HELL?
SO YOU'RE OFF WORK TODAY?
TETSU-CHAN TOLD ME IT'D BE FINE TO GO IN THE AFTERNOON
In his e-mail

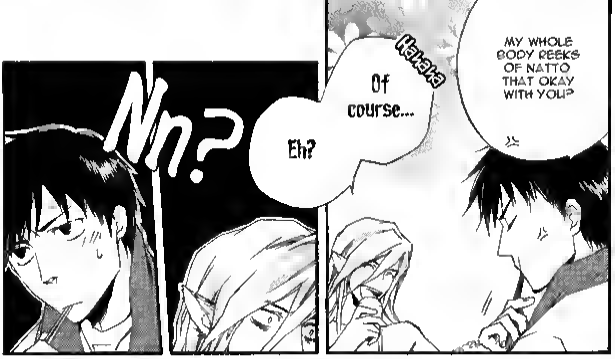
THAT NII-CHAN REALLY TAKES GOOD CARE OF YOU HUH?
'CAUSE WE'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'VE BEEN BOTHERING HIM SINCE WE WERE LITTLE
...Hmmm...
WHAT ABOUT IT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH TETSU-CHAN?
..NOTHING
I JUST THINK IT'D BE NICE TO BE A STRAIGHT-FORWARD AS HE IS,
THAT'S ALL.

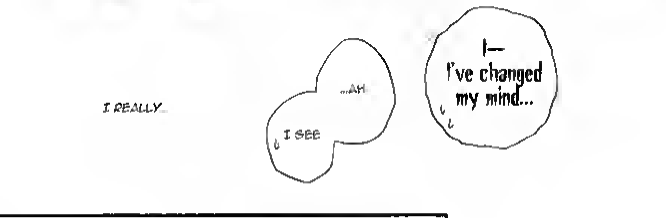
...
THE HELL?!
THAT'S NOT GOOD!
AAHH— YOU REALLY AREN'T CUTE AT ALL
-WHAT-EVER
THUNK
It's only till you're healed anyway.
-EH
WHAT?

SHOUZOU'S WISH WAS "HAVING COMPANY WHEN I'M LONELY"
nibble
B-BUT,
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOU GO BACK..
I'LL RETURN ONCE YOUR WISH IS FULFILLED.
THAT WHY WHEN YOU AND YOUR PARENTS MOVED IN WITH HIM
I WAS TRANSFORMED BACK INTO THE TOOTH
THE AGREE-MENT IS ONE-SIDED
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY WILL,
SO YOU CAN RELAX!

ONCE YOUR WISH COMES TRUE I'LL DISAPPEAR
THAT'S STRANGE
EVEN THOUGH I'M HAPPY, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SMILE
...
I KEEP RECALLING THE IMAGE OF HIS PALE FACE LAST NIGHT

THAT'S HOW IT IS
SO LET ME EAT UP THE DEMONS IN YOUR BODY BEFORE NOON!
...
YOU NAKED SEX FIEND
because someone interrupted us yesterday~
HAHAHA


Nn?
Eh?
Of course...
Hehehe
MY WHOLE BODY REEKS OF NATTO THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
NOTE: NATTO, A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE FOOD MADE FROM FERMENTED SOYBEANS. POPULAR ESPECIALLY IN BREAKFAST.


I REALLY
...AH
I SEE
I—
I've changed my mind...

REALLY THINK
THIS IS STRANGE

haa
THE DEMONS WILL MOVE ALONG THE BLOOD VESSELS.
LIKE THIS
slide
Ah.
LIKE I HAD THE CHANCE TO WITH YOU RESISTING ME ALL THE TIME
Ah!
twitch
slide
RIGHT FROM THE START.
SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT..
YOU..
THAT'S WHY NOTHING BEATS A THOROUGH CHECK UP

WE STILL HAVE TO DO IT AT THE END.
NH... WH...
WHY...
STROKE
HMM—?
Twitch

WHY..
DO WE HAVE TO..?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR SUCH WORDS
...WHY?
Because we're hard right now!
...NEVER MIND.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
CAUGHT A SMELL THAT
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AGREEMENT OR MY BLOODLINE.
LOOK ONLY AT ME
—Ngh..

STRANGE
AAH
HIS TONGUE FEELS SO HOT
THE PLACES THAT NOW FEEL FINE AFTER HIS TOUCH HAVE INCREASED
AH, GOOD MORNING YAMANE-KUN
YOU WELL ENOUGH TO WORK?
PEST-CONTROL FOR THE COLLECTIONS
EH? DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TAKE A DAY'S LEAVE TO REST?

THEN YOU NO LONGER NEED WEAK GENTLE ME TO DO SUCH HARD LABOR, RIGHT?
I even specially wore a t-shirt to work today
Shogyo
SASAKI-SAN THE LOAD YOU CAN CARRY IS 3 TIMES HEAVIER THAN MINE!
YAMANE-KUN, YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANY HARD LABOR I JUST NEED YOU TO HELP OUT WITH THE CATALOGUE
AH, SURE
CATA-LOGUING IS QUITE TRIVIAL!
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO ASK
OKAY
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

THIS REALLY ISN'T EASY
EVEN THOUGH THE NOTES I GOT GAVE ME A ROUGH IDEA
DO I NEED TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE NEW COLLECT-IONS ?
THIS ONE DEFINITELY NEEDS TO BE REGISTERED..
LOOKS LIKE I'LL NEED TO WORK OVER-TIME..

OVERTIME..?
—NO
NO WAY
NO WAY
NO WAY
NO WAY
WHERE IS THIS UNKNOWN GUILT COMING FROM? IT SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
I DON'T NEED TO INFORM HIM!
GLARE
TREMBLING
yamane-kun~
AH?!
YES?!
flutter
rustle

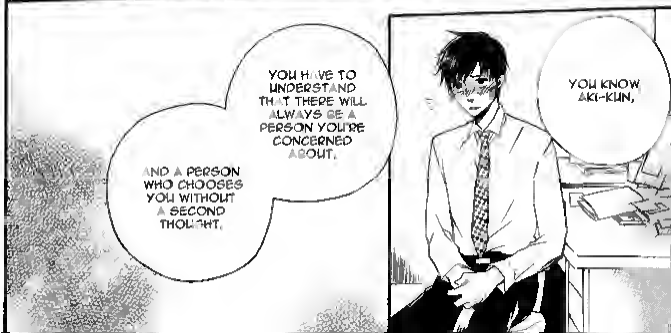
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING! I'M REALLY SORRY!
HOW HOW CRUEL...
I WAS ONLY THINKING YOU COULD ASK ME IF YOU NEEDED ANY HELP.. BOOHOO..
WHAT'S THE MATTER? HOW CLOSE YOU GUYS ARE~
Even glared at me
Mamie.
Pouch

AKI-KUN YOU CAN CONTINUE THE REST TOMORROW!
YOU DEFINITELY CAN'T FINISH EVERYTHING TODAY..
THIS WOULD TAKE ABOUT 2 TO 3 DAYS
AH... ALL RIGHT
I WAS TOO INTO IT
Ah

ISN'T IT BEST YOU HEAD BACK SOON?
SETSU'LL GET WORRIED AS WELL.
...
DIRECTOR
HMM—?
UM...
...
YES?
...
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU
SEEKING SOME ADVICE ON LOVE FROM AN OLD MAN?
—AH—
chuckle

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
BUT...
THERE'S A LOT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

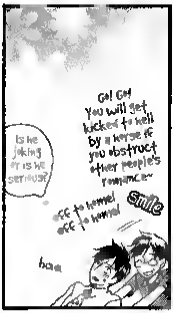
AND THERE ARE MANY THINGS I SERIOUSLY HAVE TO CONTEMPLATE
laughing
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE NUDGE
BUT BEFORE THAT.. UM...


YOU KNOW, AKI-KUN,
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PERSON YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT,
AND A PERSON WHO CHOOSES YOU WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MANY SUCH PEOPLE YOU'LL ENCOUNTER IN YOUR LIFE
YOU THINK THAT PERSON VERY IMPORTANT, YOU VALUE AND YOU WANT TO LOVE HIM FOREVER
IF YOU THINK IT'S TOO HARD, JUST TAKE THE FIRST STEP...
BECAUSE THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO AFTER THAT ANYWAY...
IF YOU ASK THE OPTIMISTIC ME, THIS IS THE ONLY ANSWER I'M GOING TO GIVE
.. OKAY
HAHAHA
SO
BECAUSE I HAVE A DATE LATER ON WITH HATOKI-KUN, CAN I ASK YOU TO LEAVE FIRST?
EH?!

NO WAY! YOU'VE JUST GOTTEN BETTER
IF I MAKE YOU STAY, HATOKI-KUN WILL GET ANGRY
AH... THEN I CAN HELP TOO
IF WE DIDN'T GO THROUGH THEM, THEY'D ALL BECOME PART OF OUR CURRENT COLLECTIONS
HE MUST BE ON THE WAY BACK WITH THE NEW COLLECTIONS
That kid's really popular, so many people give the collections for free
In the middle of business trip to the city

AREN'T YOU ALSO VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SETSU-SAN?
JUST BE GOOD AND GO HOME!
...ALL RIGHT.


Go! Go! You will get kicked to hell by a horse if you obstruct other people's romance
Is he joking? It is HE SETSUSE
Smile
ace to kennel ace to kennel
haa

SHOCK
You're late!
I EVEN THOUGHT THAT YOU'D FAINTED SOMEWHERE AGAIN
WELL WHATEVER—
HE'S WEARING CLOTHES AND THE TAIL AND EARS HAVE DISAPPEARED
WAS HE GOING TO PICK ME UP?
S...

SORRY,
THEN
Ohh?!
KICK
WHAT'S WITH THAT SHOCKED FACE?!

JUST SHUT UP!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A FEVER
YOUR FACE IS BEET RED
NEXT TIME IF I'M GOING TO BE LATE I'LL CALL HOME
!
COME HERE! I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO USE THE PHONE!
grab
BIT BY BIT,
JOLT
Ah!
RRRR
When I call home on my cell, pick up the phone when it rings.

OUR RELATIONSHIP SLOWLY BUILDS UP LIKE THIS FROM DAY TO DAY.

YOU CAN'T SEE IT ON THE SURFACE,
...JUST A BIT MORE
BUT ON THE INSIDE, THERE ARE SOME SERIOUS CHANGES GOING ON.

WHEN I GAZE AT YOU LIKE THIS,
SO I'M COMPLETELY HEALED?
That's right.
YOUR FACE REVEALS LONELINESS
That's great, huh, Aki.

fwump
Yo!
YAMANE-KUN. IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO HANDLE TOUGH WORK ALREADY!
MY BODY'S BEEN IN A GOOD STATE LATELY.
THERE'LL BE MORE PHYSICAL WORK FOR YOU DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF YOU!
AKI. HERE
SURE!

I'll finish my part quickly and help you guys!
You have one slip, I have three. Director has two. And Sasaki-san has four.
I've actually gotten used to it already—
Really very sorry!
Good evening!
These are the works that are to be moved for the exhibition.
Eh... by myself?
Stagger
Then we'll start work tomorrow. That's all for today.
Oh my! It's already 7.
We're already working overtime and it's going to be over overtime during the holidays?
Ah. Can it be that...
Setsu-san's coming to pick you up?
You've got a good memory, Sasaki-san.
I'm always working at fixed times so I didn't get to see him—
He's famous now, because he's such a good guy.
Why do they have to talk about that..
He only comes because it's on his way home from buying beer.
clink
We can thank him anyway for helping out with the moving.
Ah!

Yo! Nanjo—sama! Nice—Chan, long time no see.
Good after—noon—
YOU CAN GO HOME ALREADY! I'LL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR
OKAY

HE'S FINALLY HERE!
Hn?

SETSU TREATS ME AS GENTLY AS SPUN GLASS
...

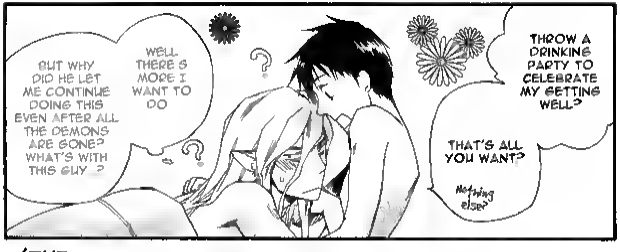
DATING AS YOU WORK OVERTIME, HUH...
THUMK

IS. LIKE DIRECTOR SAID. TRULY BEAUTIFUL.
UNDER THE LAST RAYS OF SUNLIGHT. SETSU REALLY
Cough!
Cough!
HEY, HEY! YOU OKAY?
AND YOU WERE ONLY OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR 3SECOND.
I'm going to get angry!
—HUH?
IT SEEMS...
YOUR THROAT'S BLOCKED...

RUSTLE
WHY AM I LETTING HIM DO THIS IN SUCH A PLACE?
SETSU HE..
WHY DIDN'T I DISAPPEAR?
Swallow
munch
NGH.
...THIS SHOULD BE THE LAST DEMON.
THEN WHY..?

HE REALLY DID MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE
OF COURSE IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU TO!
——
AS FOR MY STUBBORN MOUTH
AKI,
YOU.
M-MY HEART FEELS QUEASY BECAUSE

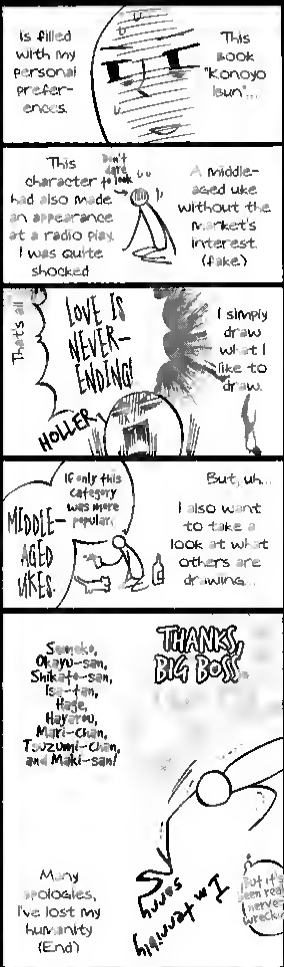
NOT EVEN A SINGLE WORD OF "THANK YOU" OR EVEN "I LOVE YOU" WAS UTTERED


BUT WHY DID HE LET ME CONTINUE DOING THIS EVEN AFTER ALL THE DEMONS ARE GONE? WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?
WELL THERE'S MORE I WANT TO DO
THROW A DRINKING PARTY TO CELEBRATE MY GETTING WELL?
THAT'S ALL YOU WANT?
Nothing else?

/END

Lately I've been rather obsessed with wine.
Hello everyone, I'm Suzuki Tsuta.
The funny photo on the inside of the cover is a cup I drew myself.
TOKKURI
How I hang my thumbnail mark.
What's inside is of course Japanese wine.
I have four very sturdy bookcases and an entire cupboard at home.
Recently I've taken a liking to Western wine, too.
Easily influenced by others.
Huh? This wine isn't as strong as I expected?
...
The day my liver rests is the day before my deadline. What will happen to my body for?
I am Suzuki Tsuta.

"TYN TORE (IN THE PREFECTURE EHIME) IS FAMOUS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TORE POTTERY (TOKEYAKI). A TYPE OF PORCELAIN WITH A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 300 YEARS. SOURCE HTTP://WWW.TOWN.TORE.EHIME.JP/5/433/00008418.HTML

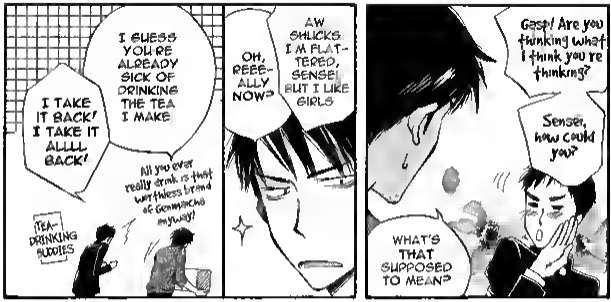

This book "Konoyo Isuru"...
Is filled with my personal preferences.
A middle-aged uke without the market's interest. (Fake)
This character had also made an appearance at a radio play. I was quite shocked
Don't dare to look
I simply draw what I like to draw.
That's all
LOVE IS NEVER-ENDING!
HOLLER
But, uh...
I also want to take a look at what others are drawing...
If only this category was more popular.
MIDDLE-AGED UKES.
THANKS, BIG BOSS!
Sumeko, Okayu-san, Shikato-san, Is-tan, Hage, Hayerou, Maki-Chan, Tsuzumi-Chan, and Maki-san!
I was hurt
But it's been really nerve-wrecking!
Many apologies, I've lost my humanity (End)

HEY MATSUBARA SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE
NO, NO, NOT AT ALL
I COULDN'T JUST SIT THERE AND WATCH YOU DROP THEM. NOW CAN I KUROKI-SENSEI?
WOW. I'M THE ADULT HERE AND YOU'RE ALREADY PROVING MORE OF ONE THAN I AM.
rattle
Whoops, Shinji There.
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M THE OLDEST AMONG MY SIBLINGS
NAH. DON'T THINK THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT

第8話

NYLON VINYL * NYLON VINYL * NYLON VINYL *

HEY-
WHOA!
stagger
stagger
BUMP
WHOA!
WHOA THERE..!
STEA-DY..
STEA-DY..
WHO KNOCKS A GUY OVER AND JUST MAKES A RUN FOR IT THESE DAYS? TALK ABOUT RUDE
YOU KNOW WHICH CLASS HE'S FROM?
I'M NOT SURE BUT I THINK HE'S FROM THE CLASS NEXT TO MINE
He seems pretty shady to me. What do you think?
PHEW!
SENSEI ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SAVED
YEAH THANKS
Slide
WELL, HE DOES H..VE A FACE I'D ASSUME MOST GIRLS WOULD FALL HE..D OVER HEELS FOR.
HAD KIND OF A MYS- TERIOUS AIR ABOUT HIM DON'T YOU THINK?
Hmm, is that so?
WOW. HOW'D YOU FIG—?
DID HE RE..LLY? I WOULDN'T KNOW...
How lucky!
HMM?
WAAAIT A MINUTE...


I GUESS YOU'RE ALREADY SICK OF DRINKING THE TEA I MAKE
I TAKE IT BACK! I TAKE IT ALLLL BACK!
All you ever really drink is that worthless brand of Germanium anyway!
TEA-DRINKING BUDDIES
OH, REEE-ALLY NOW?
AW SHUCKS I'M FLATTERED, SENSE! BUT I LIKE GIRLS
Gasp! Are you thinking what I think you're thinking?
Sensei, how could you?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

PIIIIIII...
.. AND THAT WAS HOW THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE GAINED WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION
THE PAGES AFTER ARE A SUMMARY OF ALL THE HISTORIC EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED. SO MAKE SURE YOU GET THEIR CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER INSIDE YOUR HEAD
WHOOPS THERE GOES THE BELL.

Eeeeeh...
RIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY
MAKE SURE YOU COMPLETE THE HANDOUT I GAVE YOU AND PASS IT TO ME TOMORROW.
...Iiiing
I wanna do it, too!
Would you? Thanks.
Sensei, I'll just erase the board for you, 'kay?
It's full, so don't be shy!
If it hasn't been me!
blah
blah
blah
What's this lame-looking thing? It's lame, I tell ya, l-a-a-ame.
Hey, lay off already!
Sigh
I'll start erasing from this end, ok?
Sigh
You've got dirty hand writing, Sensei.

MAYBE HE'S THE TYPE WHO JUST LIKES BEING ALONE
YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL WHETHER A PERSON'S CHARACTER IS SHADY OR NOT JUST BY THAT

I MAY BE IN THE TEACHER'S POSITION NOW BUT I WAS ONCE A STUDENT MYSELF.

I'VE KNOWN KIDS LIKE HIM BEFORE...AND EVEN BACK THEN, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT GOES ON INSIDE THEIR HEADS. I GUESS SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
CLANG
All right! all right!
WHOA!
I'VE ALWAYS ASKED THE TALL ONES LIKE YOURSELF TO HELP ME. I DON'T MEAN TO TROUBLE YOU.
NO, NO. NOT AT ALL. ASK ME ANYTIME
LOOK FOR IT ON ONE OF THE SHELVES ON THE RIGHT
on the right!
rattle
PREPARATION AND RESOURCE ROOM
KUROKI-SENSEI, I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING BUT COULD I ASK FOR YOUR HELP? YOU SEE, I NEED THE PROJECTOR FOR A SCREENING IN CLASS TOMORROW.
IT'S ON ONE OF THE SHELVES IN THE PREP ROOM, BUT IT'S TOO HIGH FOR ME TO REACH.
OH, YEAH SURE. I'LL GO GET IT FOR YOU.

GAH!
You You... scared the living crap outta me!
What the heck do you think you're doing?
I'M SORRY
mumbling
GEEZ...
thudump
thudump
OH WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU MEANT TO DO IT
BUT DAMN, YOU GOT ME GOOD

AND IT'S GETTING KIND OF LATE AS WELL...
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THE PREP ROOM IS OFF LIMITS TO STUDENTS
WHAT ARE YOU HANGING AROUND IN HERE FOR ANYWAY?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M MAD AT YOU OR ANYTHING THAT'S NOT WHY I'M ASKING.
TACHIKAWA... WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?
I WISH I COULD FIGURE MUCH MORE AT THIS...
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS WHAT'S GOING ON IN HIS MIND
THIS IS NO GOOD. I MAY BE A TEACHER NOW BUT I STILL HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO HANDLE HIS TYPE
ABSOLUTE SILENCE
HIS WORDS ALL SOUNDED STRANGLED
..I JUST.. WANTED TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAP...
WHA?
...JUST...
...AT THE...

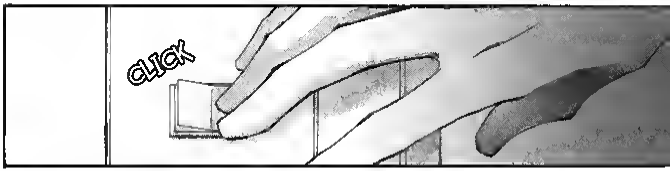
sigh
CLAMMING UP AGAIN HUH?
IT'S PRETTY CLEAR HE WASN'T USED TO "LIKING" WITH JUST ANYBODY
THE MAP..?
what a bizarre reason...
WHY? WERE YOU THINKING OF TRAVELING SOMEWHERE?
...
BUT THE VIBE HE GAVE OFF WAS MORE OBSTINATE THAN LONELY
HE'S ALWAYS BURYING HIMSELF IN BOOKS, AS IF HE WERE SHUTTING OUT THE REST OF THE WORLD
IF THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE HE CAN FIND SOME SORT OF COMFORT..
AH, WELL. I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
IF ANYONE ASKS... I'LL JUST TELL THEM I'M HAVING YOU HELP KEEP THE PLACE CLEAN
FEEL FREE TO COME IN TO LOOK ANYTIME YOU WANT TO

NOT ONLY LETTING A BROKEN RULE GO UNPUNISHED BUT TO EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO FACILITATE IT. I KNOW VERY WELL THAT THIS IS PROBABLY SOMETHING SOMEONE WHO DARES CALL HIMSELF A RIGHTEOUS FIGURE OF EDUCATION WOULD NEVER DO

BUT IT WOULD HELP IF HE HAD A CHATTIER PERSONALITY
..I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE HOW HIS EYES REFLECTED NOTHING BUT DESOLATION
BUT AFTER HAVING TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT HIM, EVEN IF HE DOES APPEAR TO BE HOLDING UP JUST FINE
THUD
THUD
THUD
RATTLE
LESSEE NOW...
WHERE D THEY PUT THAT HUGE CHRONO CHART..?
AH, HERE YOU ARE..
..HMM?
flap
flap
THERE'S NOT EVEN A SPECK OF DUST ON THIS THING
THAT KID..
GUESS MY WORDS DID MANAGE GET THROUGH TO HIM SOME

MATSUBARA!
DID SOME-ONE CALL ME?
YEAH, I DID COULD YOU DISTRIBUTE THESE TO EVERYONE IN CLASS?
YESSIR
OH, AND I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU... YOU KNOW THAT KID FROM THE OTHER DAY? HE TALKED TO ME A LITTLE.
EH?
I'll go on ahead first, ok?
I'M TALKING ABOUT S-E'S TACHI-KAWA
HE REALLY DOES SEEM TO HAVE A HARD TIME OPENING HIS MOUTH
OH, HIM!
I HEARD HE REALLY DOESN'T TALK MUCH TO THE OTHER KIDS IN HIS CLASS
EVEN IF YOU TRIED TALKING TO HIM, YOU WON'T REALLY GET ANYWHERE OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THOSE KIDS SAID
I SEE
Why do you always insist on missing the point?
Wait just a minute!
Why are we even talking about him?
Gosh! Sensei, you're not telling me...

HMM?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
It's probably nothing...
...I JUST THOUGHT I SAW THE LIGHTS SWITCHED ON IN THAT CLASSROOM OVER THERE A MOMENT AGO.
Eek!
Don't tell us creepy things like that!
MAYBE I JUST IMAGINED IT.
Hahaha!
THANK YOU AS WELL.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING TODAY
CAN WE LEAVE THE CLOSING UP TO YOU?
SURE

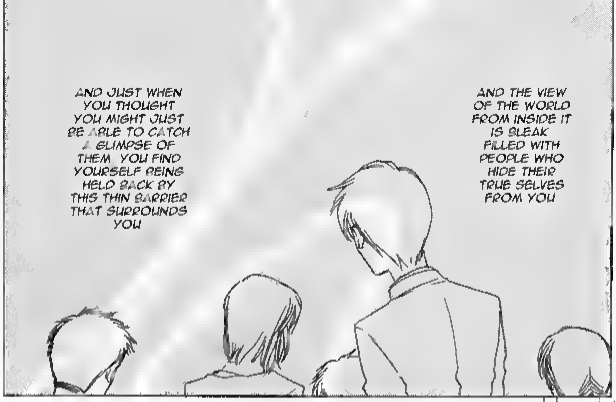

CLICK

GRRRRR!!
B

Would you gimme a break already?!
How long were you planning to just stand there?
..THERE WASN'T..
ANYWHERE ELSE TO HIDE..
..THERE ISN'T ANYONE AT HOME..
..HERE IS ALL I COULD THINK OF
GROO~ BOW!
ALL RIGHT THAT'S IT!
WAIT A MINUTE WHAT AM I SAYING?
IT'S LATE WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?!
HUH? OH YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS A BLIND SPOT.
BUT MAN, YOU REALLY DID SCARE THE LIVING DAY-LIGHTS OUT OF ME, YOU KNOW?

IS IT JUST ME..
...OR IS YOUR BODY TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO WHAT YOUR FACE IS TELLING ME?
EXCUSE ME
Grrrrrrrrrrrr
Whimmmmmm
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SHE HAS TO WORK LATE TONIGHT.
SO IT'S JUST YOU AND YOUR MOTHER?
HMMM..
MISO FLAVOR
YOU KNOW
AFTER ALL, WHY ELSE IS HE ABLE TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS PRETTY DIRECTLY?
HE'S ABLE TO TALK IF HE WANTS TO.
YES, SIR IT DOES
THAT SUN TASTES PRETTY GOOD, DOESN'T IT?
I GUESS...
GOOD!

WHAT WITH YOU PUTTING UP THAT STOIC FRONT OF YOURS.
I SUPPOSE I CAN HARDLY CALL YOUR ACTIONS PREDICTABLE.
BUT STILL YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD LISTENER, AREN'T YOU?
...
SENSEI...
WHAT? WHAT'D THEY COME FROM?
HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN THE NOTION THAT EVERYONE'S SEPARATED BY JUST A THIN, FILMY BARRIER?
IT'S REALLY THIN AND IT'S TRANSPARENT KIND OF LIKE VINYL... OR NYLON, IF YOU WILL.
AND YOU CAN NEVER BREAK THROUGH IT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY.


AND JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THEM, YOU FIND YOURSELF BEING HELD BACK BY THIS THIN BARRIER THAT SURROUNDS YOU
AND THE VIEW OF THE WORLD FROM INSIDE IT IS BLEAK FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO HIDE THEIR TRUE SELVES FROM YOU

YOU PROBABLY CAN'T SENSE IT, SENSEI, BUT..
..NOBODY CAN BREAK IT EVER
"I GUESS WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY IS, IF CARING MEANS HAVING TO BEAR THE STRAIN OF BEING HURT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I MIGHT AS WELL NOT."

grip
WHAT A SURPRISE FOR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AFRAID OF STAYING BACK IN SCHOOL AFTER DARK..
pat
..YOU'RE PRETTY TIMID

BUT HERE. CAN YOU FEEL IT?
IT'S WARMTH SEEPING THROUGH
WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID THOUGH. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING THAT
THESE THINGS REALLY DO EXIST
BUT IF YOU DON'T HOLD ON LONG ENOUGH TO FEEL IT, YOU WON'T EVER KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.

FIRST, YOU'VE GOT TO REIN IN THAT FEAR OF YOURS
AND ALLOW YOURSELF TO SEE THE GOOD IN OTHERS
WELL, IF YOU WERE TO TRY ANYMORE OF THAT WITH ME, THAT BARRIER YOU JUST SPOKE OF MIGHT JUST BREAK
SO YOU SHOULD PROBABLY TRY IT WITH THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE ONCE YOU'VE FOUND HER.
Let go
IF I WERE TO TRY ANYMORE.. WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HMM?
HUH?
UUUH.. DO ME A FAVOR AND FORGET THAT, ALL RIGHT?
Hahaha!
Guuuh! Why'd I have to let my mouth run away with me?!

...
SHIT THIS IS ALL THAT MATSUBARA'S FAULT IF HE HADN'T PLANTED THOSE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD..
Sensei, you trust [illegible] me...?!
Whoosh
S-SO! DID YOU FIND ANYTHING INTERESTING ON THE MAP?
(desperate sounding)
FOUND A FEW PLACES YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT MAYBE?
Hahaha!
WELL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT SEE IF I CARE BOO. WHY DO I HAVE TO GET STUCK WITH A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING LIKE YOU BOO, SON?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU DON'T LAUGH AND YOU DON'T CRY YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE THE OTHER KIDS! WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE THEM? YOU'RE HOPELESS-I TELL YOU!
"HEY WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?"
"SHEEZ I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE YOUR HEAD AT ALL. I BET NO ONE DOES."
"FUCK THIS I GIVE UP."
SENSEI'S HAND...
IT'S WARM

AH. HERE IT IS
AND HIS BACK. I DON'T FEEL ANY SENSE OF REJECTION COMING FROM IT AT ALL
YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THIS AS—>
glomp
—WELL?!
FORGET THE MAP
LIKE I THOUGHT
IT REALLY IS WARM
I DON'T NEED TO GO ANYWHERE FAR
I JUST NEED TO BE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU

TA-TA-TA-TA-TACHI-KAWA?!
rattle
IS IT NOT POSSIBLE?
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW STRANGE YOUR ACTIONS ARE RIGHT...
SQUEEZE
...NOW?
HE... HE WENT IN FOR THE KILL!
shiver
tremble
shiver
Uuuugh! can't breathe at all
SUPER-GLUE™-ED
WHAT'S THIS? IS THIS THE FEELING OF MY MORALS PACKING UP AND MOVING TO ALASKA?! NO, IT CAN'T BE! THEY CAN'T JUST ABANDON ME LIKE THIS!!!

I THINK I JUST HIT SOMETHING...?
CAP'N, JUNIOR... JUNIOR'S ABANDON' YE SHIPPE AN' B'TRAYED US ALL!!!
...SENSEI...

pop pop
STAARE
S-so if you'd just step away from me a little bit...
N-no, it's nothing...
I-I mean, this! This is nothing! I-I'm not doing anything.
D-do you understand what I'm saying? Yourself objectively. See, I'm not doing anything at all.
SENSEI LOOK...

I'M NOT...
...I'M NOT SO DIFFERENT...
STUNNED
...?!
PULL DOWN
SENSEI

YOU'RE SPECIAL
YOU REALLY ARE
I DON'T THINK I'LL
MEET SOMEONE
LIKE YOU AGAIN.
I NEVER
HAVE BEFORE
NOT ONCE
I WON'T CARE
EVEN IF YOU
ALREADY HAVE
SOMEONE
ALL I REALLY
WANT NOW IS
TO BREAK
THROUGH IT
THIS BARRIER..
I WOULD NEVER
HAVE PEGGED
YOU AS THE
TYPE TO COME
ON SO STRONG
YOU KNOW?
..AH, DAMN IT
DAMN IT ALL
TO HELL.
Giving In

I'M NOT SEEING ANYONE AT THE MOMENT
AND I THINK IF THERE'S ANYONE HERE WHO'S SPECIAL, IT'S YOU TO BE ABLE TO SAY ALL THOSE THINGS IS REALLY SOMETHING ELSE
BUT IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO TAKE THEM BACK, YOU KNOW?
I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY NOTICED BUT WE'RE BOTH MEN. THE SOCIETY ISN'T EXACTLY KNOWN TO SMILE UPON GAY RELATIONSHIPS, YOU KNOW?
..THE ONE WHO FIRST SENSED THAT HE WAS SPECIAL WAS ME
PERHAPS.
I CAN'T. NO. SCRATCH THAT. I WON'T

WELL FIRST THINGS FIRST.
LET'S TAKE CARE OF THIS
thudump
AND SLOWLY I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT I COULDN'T DO WITHOUT SEEING HIS SMILE..
dribble
.. AND I WANT TO BE ABLE TO KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING
Mm.

WHOA, THIS'LL STAIN!
YOU GOT ANY TISSUES ON YOU?
..YES, SIR
TACHIKAWA, YOU KNOW..
NOW MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO SAY "YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE.."

" BECAUSE I'M RIGHT HERE "
YOU SHOULD SMILE MORE OFTEN
TACHIKA..
WA AND Matsubara?!

WHAT DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS WITH HIM OR SOMETHING?
YES, SIR. I TOOK YOUR ADVICE.
SENSEI...
WELL, THAT'S GOOD AND ALL BUT TRY NOT TO MENTION ME TOO MUCH.
You saw that look on his face earlier, didn't you?

WOBBLE
?
SENSEI..
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?

YOU KNOW..I THINK I MIGHT BE FEELING A LITTLE JEALOUS
I'M KIND OF WISHING I WERE ONE YOUR PEERS
?!
I DON'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THIS. YOU SOUND JUST LIKE A KID!
And it's January, we're talking about! I should be in a completely new!
I can't believe I just got crazy with jealousy
OVER AND /END

神も仏も
かみ
ほとけ
kami mo
hotoke mo
nai monoka
ないものか

...Hm?
LET ME ASK YA'LL A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK OF FINISHIN' A RATHER DELICATE COMMISSION FOR A RATHER IMPORTANT CLIENT, YA FINALLY GET TO GO HOME. AND WHEN YA OPEN THE DOOR, WHAT WOULD YA EXPECT TO FIND?
SURELY NOT A MESS OF RAGS YA'VE NEVER SET EYES ON BEFORE SLUMPED OVER LIKE A DEAD RAT ON YER FLOOR.

ALL I NEED IS ONE LOOK...
TA KNOW THAT THIS IS GONNA END UP BEIN' A REAL PAIN
WHAT THE HECK'S THIS?
LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THEM RAGS PEOPLE USE TA WIPE FLOORS WITH
WHY DOES IT REEK OF INCENSE?
AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE FACT THAT I HATE KIDS

Pissed Off
What part of me looks like yer mama, boy?
M-MAMA..?
..
?!
ARGH!
WHY'D YA HAFTA BE SO DAMN NOISY KID?
Tok
YA SURE TOOK YER TIME WAKIN UP
HUH?

L-LOOKS LIKE I MANAGED TO GET AWAY,
BUT WHERE AM I?
POP
SINCE YER RE UP AND ABOUT COULD YA DO ME A FAVOR AND LEAVE?
pooour
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO SLEEP ON ROUND HERE AND YER'RE LYIN' ON IT
EH...
..WHY DON'T WE SHARE IT THEN?
SPUTTAKE
GRRRR
RRR
Are ya tryin' ta be funny kid?!
N-No! I-I SWEAR, I'M NOT!
I-I'M SORRY REALLY, I AM!

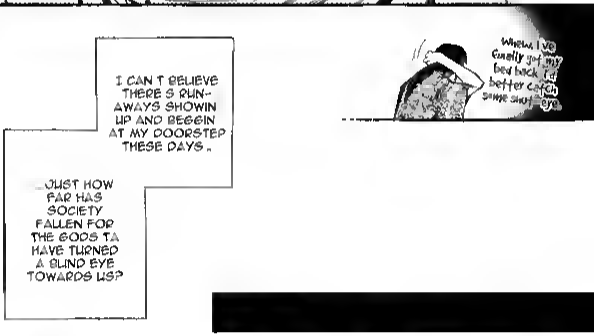
ARE YOU ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS OR THE BAD GUYS?
I DUNNO WHADDYA THINK?
W-WELL, YOU TOOK CARE OF MY INJURIES AND ALL...
THAT'S COS I DON'T WANT YA BLEEDIN' ALL OVER MY SHEETS!

...

I-- I..
..I DON'T HAVE ANY-WHERE ELSE TO GO
NOPE. SORRY. IT'D BE TOO MUCH OF A PAIN
GO TRY SOME OTHER PLACE, ALL RIGHT?

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO!
!
grab
PLEASE! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK..
WHO CARES? YA'VE SEEN STREET HUSTLERS, RIGHT? JUST DO WHAT THEY DO. I'M SURE YA'LL SURVIVE.
YA KIDS ARE JUST A PAIN JUST GET OUT NOW
PAM
GO HOME AND GET YERSELF CLEANED UP
AND DON'T SHOW YER FACE ROUND HERE ANYMORE, KID

GEEZ
RATTLE
...


I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S RUN-AWAYS SHOWIN UP AND BEGIN AT MY DOORSTEP THESE DAYS.
...JUST HOW FAR HAS SOCIETY FALLEN FOR THE GODS TA HAVE TURNED A BLIND EYE TOWARDS US?
Whew, I've finally got my bed back. I'd better catch some shut-eye.

?

rattle
WELCOME HOME!
Oh! I was wondering if you could engrave my name! Are you free sometime?
No problem. Just bring it over.
Thanks. I will.

I-I really did f-f-fry looking
For a-a place s-somewhere, j-just I-like you said I sh-sh-should.
B-b-but I really d-d-don't know anyone, y-y-you s-see.
So...
SEE HERE...
Scrape
SHIVER
SHIVER
PETRIFIED
I THOUGHT I TOLD YA NOT TA SHOW YER FACE 'ROUND HERE AGAIN!
GASP!!!
Huff...
I'MSORRY I'MSO-SORRY
I'MSO VERYSORRY PLEASEFOR-GIVEME!
..HN?
?

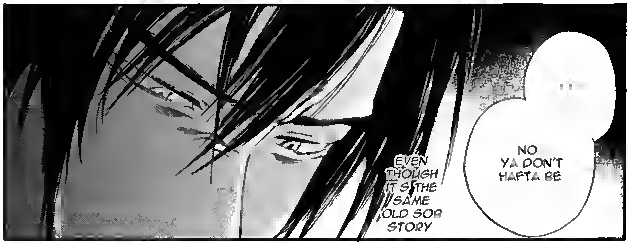
SLIDE
THIS KNIFE..
GASP!
THE METAL IS COARSE AND OLD I DON'T SEE HOW IT COULD STAB RIGHT THROUGH THE FLOOR LIKE THAT
THE EDGE WAS PRETTY DULL TOO..
..I KNOW I HAVE A WHETSTONE 'ROUND HERE SOMEWHERE DID YA DO THIS, KID?
I-I'M SORRY I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT
I'M S-S-S-O SORRY
I WAS JUST TRYIN T'SCARE YA BACK THERE
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YA'D HAVE SOME TALENT?

THE NAME'S GINTA
..AND SINCE YA CAN DO SOMETHIN USEFUL LIKE THAT, I'LL LET YA STICK ROUND HERE FOR A WHILE
THERE'S ONE CONDITION THOUGH. YA DON'T EVER BAWL ON ME
THE KID..
EH?
..INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS "SOUTA"
But first we've gotta do somethin about that disaster on yer head.

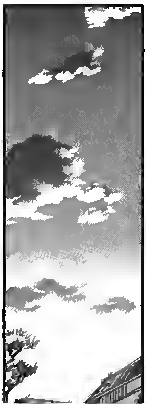
SOUTA'S STORY, WHILE TRAGIC...
...WAS SADLY ONE SO COMMON THESE DAYS. IT'S HARDLY WORTH THE BOTHER TA TELL IT.
MY FATHER A CARPENTER PASSED AWAY THREE WINTERS AGO...
...WHEN HE GOT CRUSHED BY SOME TIMBER
SCRICK
MY MOTHER WORKED AS HARD AS SHE COULD FOR A YEAR AFTER THAT
BUT SHE GOT SICK AND WOULDN'T STOP, SO SHE EVENTUALLY WORKED HERSELF TO DEATH
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, I TOOK A JOB AS A SERVANT FOR A BIG LOCAL STORE
THAT AIN'T TOO SHABBY
NO, IT WASN'T...

"SOUTA."
THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE STORE I WORKED AT TOOK A LIKING TO ME
HE TOOK CARE OF ME AND EVERYTHING WAS GOOD FOR A WHILE
"AS OF TODAY, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SET FOOT OUTSIDE OF MY ROOM."
"SOUTA, MY PRETTY LITTLE SOUTA..."
BUT THEN...
...ONE DAY, IT ALL SUDDENLY WENT DOWN-HILL...
IT WAS AS IF HE'D SUDDENLY GONE DEAF AND COULDN'T HEAR ME ANYMORE.
"I SAID NO, DIDN'T I?"
I WAS SO AFRAID...
...I WANTED TO LEAVE...
"YOU'RE MINE, SOUTA."

AND I JUST KEPT RUNNING I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS HEADED AND SOMEHOW ENDED UP HERE
YOURS WAS THE ONLY PLACE THAT I COULD GET INTO EASILY ENOUGH.
YA TRESPASSED AFTER ALL.
THAT'S TRUE I CAN'T DENY IT



I HONESTLY FELT SORRY FOR THE KID FOR A SPLIT SECOND THERE



AND IF YA DUNNO WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT ALL YA HAFTA DO IS TRY HAVING THEM EYES LOOKIN' AT YOU AND YA'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN

BUT DAMN, YOUR STORY SURE WAS A HECK OF A BORIN' ONE

IT'S MORNING ALREADY. YOU'D BETTER GET UP.
WHA
...THE HELL...?
CAN'T YA SEE I'M HUNG OVER?
YOU CAN'T BE, PLEASE, I'VE GONE THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF FIXING YOUR BREAKFAST. I KNOW YOU WON'T LET IT GO TO WASTE.
Don't...
Don't ya have any brains?
I SMELL MISO SOUP
...
My, you're up early this morning.
I cooked clams with scallion!
I WAS TRAINED TO MAKE BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING WHILE I WAS WORKING AS A SERVANT AT MY OLD JOB.
WHY DON'T YOU GO WASH UP AND COME EAT?
SOUTA WAKES UP EARLY EVERY MORNIN
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WORK SO HARD.
How is it? Do you like it?
This is good.
I'm a bit shocked.

IT DOES LOOK A LITTLE BENT
AT IS OLD JOB 'E REPAIRED KITCHEN KNIVES WITH THE CARPENTRY TOOLS 'E INHERITED FROM 'IS FATHER
ALL RIGHT, FIX THAT TOO
WHICH PROBABLY EXPLAINS WHY HE HAD LITTLE TROUBLE ADAPTIN HIS SKILLS TA SUIT MY LINE OF WORK
WITH HIS HELP I'VE GOTTEN TWICE AS MUCH WORK DONE
WO—W!
WHAT A STRANGE KID
THE MORE E DOES THIS THE BETTER E GETS
WHAT'S THIS? A CONTAINER OF ROUGE?
OR... HM LET'S SEE LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
THIS IS PRETTY!

UM, G-
GI_GI
GEEZ, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET THIS KID
WHY ARE YA SO AFRAID TA SAY MY NAME?
IT'S JUST GINTA
G..
..GINTA
YEAH, LIKE THAT
I THINK I'VE LOST MY MIND...
HEHE!

..COS I COULD'VE SWORN I HATED KIDS JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO
GOOD MORNING, MA'AM!
Good morning, Souta-chan!
Where's Gin-chan?
OH, HE'S WORK-ING
Already? Wow, he's really up early these days, isn't he?
Let's see, what do I have to clean next? The work-cloth and, oh right, the whetstone too!
SHUFFLE
?
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HIDING OUT IN A DECREPIT PLACE LIKE THIS?

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU. DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
SOUTA...
Uhh...
Thank you so much for everything
...

WHAT'S THIS THING?
WHOOPS
...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
IT'S THAT SMELL OF INCENSE AGAIN

GEEZ
WHAT KINDA CHEAP-ASS SECOND HAND GIFT ARE YA TRYING TA GIVE TA ME?
SOUTA...

OR ARE YA TRYIN' TA TELL ME...
...THAT THIS IS THE PRICE I'M SUPPOSED TO PAY FOR YA?

SOUTA
WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?
...
TUG
YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ALL THOSE BORING CHORES ANYMORE YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO A THING
ALL I'M ASKING FOR IN RETURN IS THAT YOU STAY HERE WITH ME
SLIP
!
YOU WON'T FIND A JOB THIS EASY ANYWHERE ELSE
CRUNCH
IT'S THE TYPE OF BLISSFUL LIFE YOU DREAM OF
I...
I'VE ALREADY EXPERIENCED A HAPPY LIFE.
AND IT'S NOTHING LIKE HOW YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL NOW.

I HAVE A LOT OF FUN WORKING...
...AND I REALLY LIKE MAKING MISO SOUP IN THE MORNING
AND..
AND THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO STAY WITH NOW IS
SOUTA!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
N—!
IT'S OKAY. IT'S ALL RIGHT I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET EVERY-THING
Nuh—!
Nooo!
I'M TELLING YOU TO KEEP STILL!
!
YOU BELONG ONLY TO ME! YOU'RE MINE! YOU HEAR ME?!
SIGH.. WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAFTA COME TA THIS?

STOMP
DAMN. I THOUGHT I'D GIVE 'IM A PIECE OF MY MIND...
BUT I'M SO PISSED OFF RIGHT NOW THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER A SINGLE THING I WANTED TA SAY

THIS PLACE REALLY DOES STINK OF INCENSE
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET OUTTA HERE
B-BUT..
HOW?
GI..
..NTA..?
THE RICH HAVE A TASTE FOR THE ENGRAVINGS THAT I DO
AND THE HEAD HONCHO HERE HAPPENS TA BE A REGULAR CUSTOMER OF MINE
Slide
I DID HAVE SOME TROUBLE GETTING IN HERE..
..BUT I MANAGED TA CON-VINCE HIM
IT TURNS OUT THAT HE VALUES THE GOODS HE BUYS FROM ME MORE THAN HIS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON HIS WORDS NOT MINE..
AND SO HE TOLD ME TO JUST TAKE HOME WHATEVER I WANTED

C-CAN I REALLY STAY WITH YOU?
..GINTA ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?
SOB
WHO ELSE IS GONNA FIX MY TOOLS FOR ME?
DON'T BE SILLY. OF COURSE YA CAN.
STILL..
..ALWAYS A PAIN
WHAT A KID. ONCE A PAIN
BRRRR
Whoa! H-hey stop that!!
I said no squallin'! Ugh, yer nose's a running!

...I CAN'T HELP WANTING TA KEEP 'IM AROUND...
SO I GUESS THE JOKE'S ON ME I SUPPOSE SOMETIMES EVEN THE GODS CRACK BAD JOKES LIKE THIS
GINTA,
CAN I SHARE YOUR BED WITH YOU?
GINTA...
I UH...
...BEFORE I RAN AWAY, I ALWAYS SHARED ONE WITH THE YOUNG MASTER

I-I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T LIKE THIS SORT OF THING. Y-YOU SAID AS MUCH THE LAST TIME I SUGGESTED THIS AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS KIDDING. B-BUT..
YOU KNOW I..
..I..
I REALLY WASN'T
AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I..
WHA..
GRAB
...!

I never thought ya were,
Souta
BUT DAMN IF YA DUNNO HOW AND WHEN TA FAN MY FLAMES
Mph!
SO DON'T BLAME ME FOR WHAT'S ABOUT TA HAPPEN..
AND DON'T GET ME WRONG. I STILL HATE KIDS THAT WON'T EVER CHANGE
JUST KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE FIRST AND LAST EXCEPTION I'M GONNA MAKE

EHEHEH'
SORRY BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT
HN...
...YA DON'T NEED TA APOLOGIZE FOR THAT...

What the...?! Are ya tellin' me ya've never used your arsehole for something like this before?!
C-CHERRY...? WHAT'S THAT?
...And here I was sure your cherry's been popped more than once!
Why didn't ya say something earlier?!
If's something ye yers that I'm gonna be sticking my schlong into! And if God's willing, I'll do it soon, too!!
神もムモクいものか／END

HEY.. HEY HATOKI-KUN?
DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY BETWEEN THEM?
THE TWO OF THEM
...HUH?
HNN —
WHY WOULD YOU ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WELL.. IT'S CAUSE HE EVEN CAME TO ME SEEKING ADVICE
AND I GET EXCITED BY TALKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S ROMANCES!
Romance, hm...
AREN'T YOU YOUNG..
I THINK...

ESPECIALLY SINCE...
...
THAT I'M BUSY ENOUGH WORRYING ABOUT MYSELF.
I HAVEN'T GOT THE ENERGY...
HE CLEARLY COULD HAVE GONE BACK HOME BUT HE STAYED TO WORK OVERTIME WITH ME AND EVEN MADE SOME TEA FOR US..
HATOKI-KUN'S A REALLY SERIOUS PERSON!
YOU'RE SO GOOD-LOOKING YET YOU DON'T GO OUT TO HAVE SOME FUN
ISN'T IT SUCH A WASTE?
We only have one life to live!
slurp
TO BE HONEST, I LOVE COFFEE
...
DIRECTOR, YOU..

THERE ARE SO MANY RUMOURS ABOUT YOU!
ARE THEY TRUE?
PEOPLE ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT?
WORKING IN SEVERAL LARGE COMPANIES AS A SECRETARY AND DRIVING THE BOSSES CRAZY
GETTING INVOLVED IN A BLOODY SITUATION IN A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT UNIT WHEN YOU TRIED TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND THE RECEPTIONIST
Ahahaha
Haha
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST—
I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD OTHERS ABOUT BEING A SECRETARY BUT I DID HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF JOBS AFTER THAT!
Quitting most of the jobs halfway through
THEN THE BLOODSHED SITUATION?
SHOCK
THAT'S TRUE, TOO!
THAT'S WHY I WAS SENT HERE—
...
Hahaha

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT HUH...
YOU THINK?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I SERIOUSLY HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF WHAT I SHOULD DO
..I'M RATHER ENVIOUS OF THEM..
thump
AH.
CRAP. I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT
I ACCIDENTALLY LOST MY COMPOSURE

You didn't purposely lose your composure, did you?
flustered
So this is natural charm
SORRY NOT AT ALL!
OKAY OKAY
KEAH
THOUGH, I STILL CAUGHT EVERYTHING YOU SAID!
HERE, FOR YOU. ♡
Eh-

...I don't think I want anything...
I feel as if something unsolved deep inside me just happened...
EH
I EVEN GOT MYSELF READY TO LISTEN TO ALL YOUR WOES!
Because of you, my heart just skipped a beat!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU TELL AN OLD MAN LIKE ME—
...I'll never tell...
AAAH, HURRY UP SO THAT YOU
CAN MAKE MY HEART SKIP A BEAT ALWAYS
Aren't you already satisfied?
Hurry! Hurry!
These are two completely different matters, so don't change the topic!
Director, you know about my feelings, don't you?
Are you joking with me?
END?

◆初出一覧◆

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ナイロンビニール	／BE・BOY GOLD('05年8月号)掲載
神も仏もないものか	／MAGAZINE BE×BOY('05年5月号)掲載
この2人は	／描き下ろし

ビーボーイコミックスをお買い
上げ頂きありがとうございます。
この本を読んでのご意見、ご感
想をお待ちしております。

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